

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by EP 1069468 (EP '468).<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the Examiner considered that the priority document submitted May 8, 2003 does not overcome the rejection since it fails to provide support for the claimed invention.

In response, Applicants submit herewith the verified English translation of Japanese Patent Appln. No. 213813/2000 and Japanese Patent Appln. No. 237897/2000 upon which Applicants claim benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a), to thereby perfect their claim to priority as to pending claims 1-14, together with the verified English translation of Japanese Patent Appln. No. 2000-236044, submitted May 8, 2003. The July 14, 2000, August 7, 2000 and August 3, 2000, filing dates of the respective Japanese applications each antedates the January 17, 2001 publication date of EP '468, to thereby obviate the rejection. Rejected claims 1-14 are fully supported by the priority document.

Particularly, claims 1 and 2 are supported by [Claim 1] and [Claim 2] at page 1 of JP 213813/2000, and claims 3-9 are supported by [Claim 1] to [Claim 7] at pages 1 and 2 of JP 237897/2000. Moreover, present claim 10 finds full support in [Claim 1] at page 1 of JP 2000-236044; Claim 11 finds full support in Paragraph [0036] at page 11 of JP 2000-236044; Claim 12 finds full support in [Claim 5] at page 1 of JP 2000-236044; Claim 13 finds full support in [Claim 6] at page 1 of JP 2000-236044; and Claim 14 finds full support in [Claim 7] at page 1 of JP 2000-236044.

Withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of claims 1-14 is earnestly solicited.

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<sup>1</sup> The Examiner cites EP 1069488, but the undersigned believes that EP 1069468 was intended.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/893,750

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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